



Route 66 Corridor Preservation News

Route 66 Preservation Grant and Cost-Share Funds Awarded for 2003

The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program has made 13 cost-share grant awards for fiscal year 2003. Total grants equaled \$134,875, with grant recipients providing \$140,010 in cost-share match. Each year, the program distributes congressionally appropriated funds to eligible preservation and research projects through a competitive process. A summary of all projects funded since 2001 is provided on page 3. For complete descriptions of the projects, contact the program office, or visit www.cr.nps.gov/rt66. 2003 projects are listed below.

Arizona

Project: Wigwam Motel Rehabilitation
Recipient: Private owner
Amount: \$7,405 NPS; \$7,405 match

The owner of the 1950 Wigwam Motel in Holbrook, Arizona, has been awarded funds for preservation and rehabilitation work on the concrete wigwams, and the motel's neon sign. The motel, operated by the same family

since 1950, closed in the 1970s, but has been re-opened since 1988. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. The motel is one of seven built throughout the U.S. between the 1930s-1950s. Three of the seven remain today, two of which are located on Route 66.

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Project: Live Theatre Production and Tour
Recipient: Northern Arizona University
Amount: \$5,000 NPS; \$5,000 match

The Northern Arizona University Department of Theatre has been awarded funds to help promote and support the touring dramatic production, *Route 66: A Celebration of America's Main Street*. The production is an interpretive and educational venue that celebrates the experience of travel during the heyday of Route 66, tells the highway's history, and examines its historical and cultural significance in American history.

Illinois

Project: Pig-Hip Restaurant Roof Replacement and Furnace Repair
Recipient: Illinois Route 66 Association
Amount: \$5,165 NPS; \$5,175 match

The Illinois Route 66 Association has been awarded funds to replace the roof and repair the furnace of the Pig-Hip Restaurant in Broadwell, Illinois. The Pig-Hip first opened for business in 1937, and served its famous brisket sandwiches until the restaurant closed in 1991. The association is working with the original owner who will operate the building as a visitor center.

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Project: Eagle Hotel Roof Replacement
Recipient: Historic Eagle Corporation
Amount: \$9,800 NPS; \$9,800 match

The Historic Eagle Corporation has been provided with funds to replace the damaged roof of the Eagle Hotel in Wilmington, Illinois. The 19th century hotel served as a restaurant, boarding house, and sporting goods store

Illinois (cont.)

during Route 66's period of significance. The roof replacement is part of a larger rehabilitation project, which will return the building into service as a hotel. The hotel was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.

New Mexico

Project: Metropolitan Park Bathhouse Emergency Stabilization
Recipient: City of Tucumcari
Amount: \$10,000 NPS; \$10,000 match

The City of Tucumcari, New Mexico has been awarded cost-share funds for stabilization work on the Metropolitan Park bathhouse. Built in 1940 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the park contained a pool, bathhouse, playground, and camping facilities. The park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The city's long term plans are to open the bathhouse as a historic site to benefit both the local community and the traveling public.



The Wigwam Motel in Holbrook, Arizona, will receive cost-share funds toward the preservation and rehabilitation of the concrete wigwams and the motel's neon sign. Photograph courtesy of Carolyn Hasenfratz.

New Mexico (cont.)

Project: El Rancho Hotel Roof Repair
Recipient: Private owner
Amount: \$15,000 NPS; \$15,000 match

The owner of the El Rancho Hotel in Gallup, New Mexico, will receive funds to repair and seal the motel's original wood shake roof. Opened in 1937, the hotel has served as a destination spot for coast-to-coast travelers, movie producers, movie stars, and Indian arts collectors. The hotel is still a thriving business on Route 66, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



The original wood shake roof of the El Rancho Hotel in Gallup, New Mexico, will be repaired.

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Project: Pecos Theatre Preservation Plan
Recipient: New Mexico Route 66 Association
Amount: \$5,000 NPS; \$5,000 match

The New Mexico Route 66 Association will administer the production of a preservation plan for the historic Pecos Theatre in Santa Rosa, New Mexico. The report will document the historic structure, analyze its character and condition, and provide guidance for its rehabilitation and long-term conservation. The report will specifically address hydrological problems, and make recommendations on returning the façade to its original configuration. The theatre was constructed in the 1920s, and still serves as a vital cultural center.

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Project: Route 66 Oral History Project – Phase II
Recipient: New Mexico Route 66 Association
Amount: \$17,780 NPS; \$17,915 match

The New Mexico Route 66 Association, in

New Mexico (cont.)

partnership with the University of New Mexico Department of English, has been awarded funds to administer Phase II of a national-level oral history training project. This year, the oral history project will provide follow-up technical assistance to participants of the seven oral history workshops held in 2003; locate and catalog existing interviews in the eight states through which the route passes; preserve select, endangered interviews; and develop a guide for collecting Route 66 oral histories.

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Project: El Rey Theatre Marquee Restoration
Recipient: New Mexico Route 66 Association
Amount: \$3,000 NPS; \$3,000 match

The New Mexico Route 66 Association has been awarded cost-share funds to restore the neon marquee of the El Rey Theatre in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Built in 1941, the theatre still serves as an entertainment venue, and is listed on the New Mexico State Registry of Cultural Properties. Once restored, the neon marquee will again serve as a landmark on Albuquerque's Route 66.

Oklahoma

Project: Phillips 66 Filling Station Restoration
Recipient: Private owner
Amount: \$27,600 NPS; \$27,600 match

The owner of a historic Phillips 66 gas station in Chandler, Oklahoma, has been awarded cost-share funds to restore the station to its 1930s appearance. The station originally opened for business in 1930, and operated as a gas station on Route 66 until 1992. When restoration is completed, the building will serve as a visitor center for Route 66 travelers.

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Project: Meadow Gold Neon Sign Restoration
Recipient: Tulsa Foundation for Architecture
Amount: \$15,000 NPS; \$15,000 match

The Tulsa Foundation for Architecture will administer the restoration of the Meadow

Oklahoma (cont.)

Gold neon sign in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Built in the mid-1930s, the sign has served as a prominent neon landmark for Route 66 travelers for decades. The Foundation plans to restore the sign to operating condition, so that it may once again contribute to the neon landscape of Tulsa.

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Project: Roger Miller Museum Window and Door Restoration
Recipient: Roger Miller Museum
Amount: \$10,000 NPS; \$10,000 match

The Roger Miller Museum will restore the windows and doors of the Roger Miller Museum building, located on Route 66 in Erick, Oklahoma. The 1929 building originally served as a café and soda shop/pharmacy during the route's period of significance. The museum will honor Erick native Roger Miller, a singer known in part for the song "King of the Road."

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Project: Oasis Drive-In Rehabilitation
Recipient: El Reno Preservation, Inc.
Amount: \$4,125 NPS; \$4,125 match

El Reno Preservation, Inc., will rehabilitate the metal palm tree sign and the extant building exterior of the Oasis Drive-In Restaurant in El Reno, Oklahoma. Built in the 1950s, the drive-in is known for having served 5 cent burgers and sodas. The site still stands as a prominent landmark at the east entrance of El Reno.



The Phillip's 66 gas station in Chandler, Oklahoma, will be restored to it's 1930s appearance.

Summary of Cost-share Grant Project Awards 2001-2003

The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program offers cost-share funds to eligible projects through a competitive process. Since the inception of the program in 2001, \$696,101 has been awarded to projects in the eight states through which the route passes.



Blue-colored states have completed Route 66 inventory surveys using program grant funds.

Preservation/ Rehabilitation

1. Aztec Hotel
Monrovia, California
2. Frontier Motel
Truxton, Arizona
3. Wigwam Motel
Holbrook, Arizona
4. Rialto Theatre
Winslow, Arizona
5. El Rancho Hotel
Gallup, New Mexico
6. Neon Sign Restoration
(various locations), New Mexico
7. Architectural Neon Restoration
(various locations), New Mexico
8. Metropolitan Bathhouse
Tucumcari, New Mexico
9. Magnolia Station
Vega, Texas

- Red numbers and bullets indicate projects that have been completed.
- Numbers are cross-referenced on map

Preservation/ Rehabilitation (cont.)

10. Roger Miller Museum
Erick, Oklahoma
11. Oasis Drive-In
El Reno, Oklahoma
12. Phillips 66 Station
Chandler, Oklahoma
13. Rock Cafe
Stroud, Oklahoma
14. Meadow Gold Neon Sign
Tulsa, Oklahoma
15. Phillips 66 Station
Cuba, Missouri
16. Pig-Hip Restaurant
Broadwell, Illinois
17. Standard Oil Station
Odell, Illinois
18. Ambler's Texaco
Dwight, Illinois
19. Eagle Hotel
Wilmington, Illinois

Inventory Surveys

- Kansas
- Missouri
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- Texas

Research/Educational Outreach

- New Mexico Model Historic Sign Ordinance
- Nob Hill Business District Preservation Brochure
- Mt. Olive to Litchfield, Illinois, Bike Trail Feasibility Study
- Route 66 Teachers Seminar
- Route 66 Oral History Project
- Route 66 Live Theatre Production
- Pecos Theatre Preservation Plan

Route 66 Inventory Survey – An Essential Beginning

There's a buzzword running up and down the Route 66 Corridor these days. It represents a key aspect to effective, national-level preservation efforts on Route 66. It's not flashy; it's actually quite mundane. It's "Inventory Survey."

Inventory survey is the process of identifying just what's left out there on the highway, and what condition it's in. The concept is relatively simple: You've got to know what you've got before you can decide how to treat it. With this information, priorities can be set to ensure that proper attention is brought to the most endangered, rare, and/or significant historic properties that represent the Route 66 experience. For example, a derelict gas station on Route 66 may be targeted for demolition, but if a survey is available that describes the gas station as being one of only three like it left on the highway, its value can be realized, and the building may be saved.

Inventory surveys can be undertaken at one or several different levels: town/city; county; state; or national. Typically a governing body or other invested entity initiates a survey, perhaps a nonprofit organization, a local/state/federal government agency, or a coalition/partnership of these groups. Qualified consultants such as historians or historical architects are typically contracted with to do the work.

Before the survey begins, a "historic context" is developed. This is a written narrative of the history and significance of the route for a particular geographic area, which provides a

framework for identifying properties that contributed to the Route 66 period of historic significance (1926-1970).

Another important part of an inventory survey can be the identification and nomination of properties eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the nation's official list of publicly and privately owned properties considered worthy of preservation by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Worthy properties must be significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and/or culture. Some Route 66 states (California, New Mexico, Texas) also have a state register program for the listing of properties significant to local, regional, or state history.

Listing properties in the National Register often changes the way communities perceive their historic places, and strengthens the credibility of private citizens and public officials in preserving these resources as living parts of communities. There are also potential financial benefits, including tax credits, loans, grants, and other incentives for preservation work on a property.

The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program has been working with individual State Historic Preservation Offices up and down the highway to conduct inventory surveys on a state-by-state basis. In 2002 and 2003, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri completed surveys using program grant funds. Each state developed a historic context specific to the history, impact, and significance of Route 66 in their state. The historic contexts for these states can be viewed online at:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/rt66/histsig/index.htm>.

During each of the state-wide surveys, properties eligible for the National Register were identified, and with owner consent, some have been nominated to the National Register. In New Mexico, these include the Route 66 and National Old Trails Road Historic District at La Bajada; a multiple property submission for neon signs on New Mexico Route 66; and a Phillips 66 Service Station in Los Lunas. In Oklahoma, up to 25 properties will be nominated, including road segments, bridges, gas stations, trading posts, and parks. In Kansas, the Independent Oil and Gas Station in Baxter Springs, the Eisler Bros. Store in Riverton, and a road segment east of Galena were listed. In Missouri, the 66 Drive-In in Carthage, Red Cedar Inn in

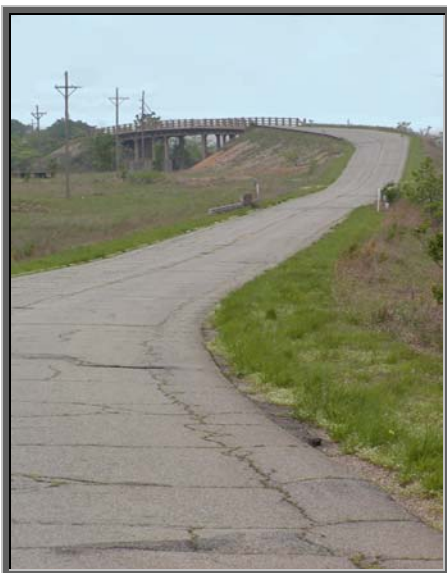


The 66 Drive-In Theatre in Carthage, Missouri was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.

Pacific, Big Chief Restaurant in Wildwood, Rock Fountain Court in Springfield, and Wagon Wheel Motel in Cuba were listed.

To build upon this body of work produced by the states, the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is now undertaking a multi-year project in which a national-level historic context will be prepared. This includes a National Register Multiple-Property Submission (MPS), and up to 50 additional Route 66 properties will be nominated to the National Register. With a national context and an MPS in place, the "leg work" for anyone wishing to prepare a nomination for their property in the future will be greatly reduced, regardless of which state they are in.

With all of these inventories, historic contexts, and National Register listings in place, the next logical step is to make the information accessible. The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is also working to determine the feasibility of developing a web-based, national-level database that compiles pertinent information into one source. The program intends to develop this in partnership with a university located on Route 66, utilizing a Geographical Information System (GIS). The database would be available to private owners; nonprofits; local, state, tribal, and federal agencies; and the public at large for monitoring, prioritizing, protecting, and appreciating the valuable, collective historic properties that represent Route 66.



This Route 66 road segment east of Galena, Kansas, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.

Program News

2004 Cost-Share Grant Cycle

The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program will begin accepting applications for the next cost-share grant cycle in February 2004. The application period will last three months to allow ample time to plan, prepare, and submit proposals. Application packages may be requested from the program office, and will also be available for printing directly from the program website at www.cr.nps.gov/rt66.

Program Staff on the Road

In the past year, Michael Taylor and Kaisa Barthuli, the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program staff, traveled extensively along Route 66 to meet with communities, and to provide educational forums on preserving the historic route. Most of these trips coincided with site visits to the 35 projects the program has funded to date, in order to work with their implementation. A few highlights from these trips are reported below:

In **Illinois**, staff met with Patty Kuhn, Executive Director of the Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project. Patty is making significant

strides in the development of a heritage tourism program, which includes an innovative system for tracking the number of Route 66 visitors through Illinois. Staff also toured the East St. Louis area with the Friends of Route 66 Association and discussed potential preservation issues in this urban area so rich in Route 66 historic properties.

In **Missouri**, staff met with entities to discuss strategies for preserving endangered properties. They also met with city and county representatives from Springfield to discuss the economic benefits of Route 66 preservation and heritage tourism. Many of these meetings were facilitated by the Missouri Route 66 Association, led by President Tommy Pike.

In **Oklahoma**, a talk was presented at the Statewide Preservation Conference as part of the track, *Preserving the Recent Past*, which included a day of sessions dedicated to Route 66. Staff also met with concerned citizens and local government officials to discuss strategies for preserving the 11th Street Bridge in Tulsa.

In **Texas**, staff made a presentation to the Amarillo Small Business Development Center to make local representatives aware of the great number of Route 66 properties along the alignments in Amarillo, as evidenced by the recently completed historic survey for Texas.

In **New Mexico**, staff has been working with the State Historic Preservation Office, the New Mexico Route 66 Association, and city officials to advocate for the protection of endangered properties including the El Vado Motel in Albuquerque, and the Log Cabin Motel in Gallup. These National Register properties have been for sale and could be threatened with possible demolition.

In **Arizona**, public meetings were held in Seligman and Flagstaff to discuss Route 66 and the economic benefits of preservation and heritage tourism. Seligman residents expressed interest in developing measures to protect the integrity of their historic community. As a result, Seligman, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, and the Program are working together to nominate Seligman's historic district to the National Register of Historic Places.

In **California**, staff made a presentation to the State Historical Resources Commission, and to the Getty Conservation Institute, to discuss the program and preservation initiatives taking place on Route 66. Staff also investigated the five historic alignments of Route 66 that exist in Los Angeles County, as brought to light in the recently published book, *Finding the End of the Mother Road: Route 66 in Los Angeles County*, by Scott Piotrowski.

Route 66 Corridor Preservation News is produced on an annual basis by the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program staff, with assistance from the National Trails System Office – Santa Fe staff. Current and past issues are available on the Internet at www.cr.nps.gov/rt66.

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Newsworthy

Hampton Inn

For the past four years, Hampton Hotels® has been promoting the *Explore the Highway with Hampton Save a Landmark™* program. Hampton Inn developed the program with the understanding that historic places are valued destinations for the traveling public. As part of this program, Hampton has worked with the California Route 66 Preservation Foundation and Route 66 Associations to help raise public awareness about Route 66. Hampton has dedicated numerous volunteer hours and over \$500,000 to help property owners paint, landscape, and refurbish their properties.

In April, 2003 Hampton also sponsored the *Route 66 Roadside Attraction Caravan*. The event involved members of the California Route 66 Preservation Foundation driving a 36-foot motor home from California to Illinois, in 66 days. The caravan erected "Roadside Attraction" signs and helped refurbish select sites, while generating a great deal of media attention for Route 66.

Michael Wallis Speaks on Diversity

Historic Preservation has universal purpose, requiring the participation of many for the long-term benefit of all. Those who own, preserve, care for, and visit Route 66 historic properties are a diverse population, representing many cultural, age, and political groups. If Route 66 is to be effectively preserved, everyone must work together to protect and enjoy it. Author Michael Wallis elaborated on these issues recently in a speech made at the Route 66 Magazine's Second Annual Roadie Gathering in Tucumcari, New Mexico. The select excerpts below provide a general idea of what was presented:

"...Injustice, racism, and sexism in the nation and along this highway are nothing new. All you need do is read some history to see how it has been nurtured.

"And then just look around you. Just look at our highway today. Read the ... signs on motels and other businesses proclaiming in great big letters "American Owned." ...

(continued on page 6)



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The National Trails System Office – Santa Fe, previously the Long Distance Trails Group Office – Santa Fe, administers the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, and the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail is administered jointly by this office and the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

These trail and corridor programs are administered in partnership with North American Indian tribes; federal, state, and local agencies; non-government organizations; and private landowners.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Newsworthy (continued from page 5)

"Remember the many, many reputable motel owners and operators from... Asia who are doing their dead-level best to provide service in their adopted homeland. Many of them are American citizens....

"...do yourself a favor and spend some time in one of the properties run by Dipak Patel. His motels in Amarillo on old Route 66, are some of the best in the city. Patel and his wife, Sangita have planted scores of rose bushes in the beds facing old Amarillo Blvd., they continually repaint and refurbish and take constant beautification steps - all of it in order to continue their goal of boosting Route 66.

"There are so many more out there just like the Patels. All of them are fine examples of just how important all people are to our Route 66.

"So please, I ask you to make your decisions wisely. Mark Twain said "Travel cures prejudice." That may be true but still you have to consider your actions and the daily decisions you make as a traveler....

Written and delivered with standing ovation by Author Michael Wallis on July 12, 2003, at the Second Annual Roadie Gathering in Tucumcari, New Mexico. Excerpts used with permission. The majority of the speech can be found at www.cr.nps.gov/rt66/news/index.htm.



Nine neon signs in New Mexico have been restored to operating condition, representing the participation and collaboration of numerous motel, restaurant, and other business owners; the New Mexico Route 66 Association; the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office; and the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. (Photograph of Westward Ho Motel in Albuquerque, New Mexico, courtesy of the New Mexico Route 66 Association.)